

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

DEVIL CANYON

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting

By

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Abstract

Devil Canyon

By

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Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting

Science fiction thriller screenplay in which an archaeology grad student and her sister unknowingly walk through a time portal into a future timeline where they encounter a paramilitary unit hunting a terrifying creature.

## DEVIL CANYON

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - DUSK

SUPER: "MOUNT ST. HELENS, WASHINGTON STATE - 1924"

A group of a DOZEN MINERS emerge from the mouth of a CAVE, shovels and pick axes slung over their shoulders. One of the last men takes a moment to look at the fading sunset.

A GUNSHOT is heard.

All the men turn around - look back toward the cave.

FIRST MINER

Where's Peter?

SECOND MINER

He's still in there...

They look at each other, then quickly head back to the cave. One carries a rifle.

The other miners watch as the two men disappear into the mouth of the cave. A couple start to follow, then think better of it. They look at each other nervously.

Then more GUNSHOTS are heard. FOUR, FIVE, SIX...

Suddenly the first miner comes running out of the cave -

FIRST MINER

(shouting)

Run!! -- Get out of here!!

THIRD MINER

What the hell?

FIRST MINER

Go!!

The others see he has spattered blood on his shirt. They all turn and run

INTO THE WOODS

They run frantically past multiple tree trunks. It's getting darker.

They reach a miner's CABIN. They scramble inside -

IN THE CABIN

The last man in slams the door closed and bolts it.

THIRD MINER

What happened?

FIRST MINER

It got Peter -- !

THIRD MINER

What?

Then they hear a RUMBLING DISTURBANCE from outside. Sounds like ROLLING THUNDER in the distance.

FOURTH MINER

What the hell's that?

THIRD MINER

It's coming from above us...

He goes to the door.

FOURTH MINER

Don't --

The third miner looks out a small window near the door. Sees nothing unusual.

The RUMBLING is getting louder.

He looks back at the others - then opens the door. He goes

OUTSIDE

He glances around, sees nothing.

The RUMBLING is getting even louder.

He steps farther from the front door, looks up the slope behind the cabin.

Then he sees it - large ROCKS coming down the slope right at them!

The first miner darts outside to see what's happening - the two of them glance at each other -

The first miner then runs off into the woods as fast as he can -

The third miner is unsure what to do - then he jumps back

INTO THE CABIN

just as the rocks start to HIT it - the cabin SHAKES -

OUTSIDE

Multiple rocks and debris hit the cabin.

DUST rises until the cabin is no longer visible.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - DAY

SUPER: "MOUNT ST. HELENS - PRESENT DAY"

A young man, PAUL MANCUSO, 23, is nonchalantly sliding down a rocky slope on foot. Almost surfing, without a board. Kicking up a fair bit of dust in the process.

Then he STUMBLES. Almost falls. Has to take quick action to save himself from somersaulting down the hillside -

But he can't stop his momentum -

He goes into a quick awkward run to try and catch up to himself -

He reaches out and grabs onto a gnarly lone tree -

Only then is he barely able to stop.

He bends over to catch his breath.

PAUL

Shit...

He straightens up and looks around. The slope continues down another hundred feet or more below him.

He shakes his head. Starts moving laterally along the hillside.

WOMAN'S VOICE

(yelling in the distance)

Paul! -- Paul!

No one is visible. Paul doesn't answer right away, but starts moving a little faster.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - DAY

SUPER: "MOUNT ST. HELENS - 16 YEARS AGO"

ESTABLISHING SHOT: An ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION is looking for evidence in the same remote canyon seen in 1924, along the northeast shoulder of Mount St. Helens.

In a SERIES OF SHOTS, we see CLOSE-UPS of hands sifting through earth, using sieves and other equipment.

The TEAM LEADER, 35, tall, handsome, stands up for a momentary break. This is HAROLD HAINES. He looks around at the mountainous scenery, then goes back to sifting.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - NIGHT

The team of a dozen is heading out, carrying their equipment. Team member STEVEN turns to Harold.

STEVEN

I've got to get back to the campus tomorrow.

HAROLD

We'll be sorry to lose you.

STEVEN

I'll be back next week.

HAROLD

Next week? You really think the northern quadrant is more promising.

STEVEN

The more difficult the terrain, the more promising it inevitably will be.

HAROLD

We might get there before next week.

STEVEN

Not you. You'll cover every square foot here first.

HAROLD

No, I won't. I've got to get back to my family at some point, like everyone else.

STEVEN

How old are your kids now?

HAROLD

Eight and six.

STEVEN

Marvelous age. Can't wait for my kid to get past the terrible twos.

HAROLD

I hear you. Though they still like to dig in the dirt in our backyard.

STEVEN

Really. Just like their old man. Did they find what they were looking for?

HAROLD

I think the six-year old was provoking the eight-year old into it.

STEVEN

Hmm...

A beat.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Maybe I'll time it just right. I want to be here when you unearth the first evidence of the Lost Canyon miners.

HAROLD

"Time it just right." Yes. If only we all could achieve that feat.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - NIGHT

The group makes their way across a narrow bridge.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

The group follows a narrow trail through the woods. Their helmet-light beams pierce the dark ahead of them.

They hear a sudden BEAR-LIKE ROAR.

They look around anxiously. It's too dark to see much of anything in the surrounding trees.

Suddenly one man is yanked away into the trees. He lets out a YELL -

The others spin around -

A ferocious ROAR - then something large and dark hits Steven, knocking him twenty feet away -

The others start running -

More ROARING - confusion - panic -

Another man is hit - a CRACKING sound is heard -

One by one, men are being taken out -

Harold stops in place - turns around - pulls out a pick-ax tool -

He hesitates - takes a step forward -

Then, abruptly, there's SILENCE. Harold hears nothing.

He looks at his men -

He sees half of them lying in various spots along the trail, mortally wounded -

The others are gone -

Harold hesitates again - then grits his teeth and starts moving toward them -

Suddenly he is startled by a loud ROAR just off his left - very close -- !

He turns and starts running -

And running -

He goes for some distance. Three hundred feet or more. Into thicker woods.

He trips - scrambles awkwardly upright - then stops -

He's now all by himself.

Silence again.

He seems to be completely alone. He stands and looks. Waits.

He takes a step back toward his group...

Then he hears a ROAR again - coming from just off his right -

He steps to his left -

Only to suddenly FALL -

INTO A HOLE

A trap. Fifteen feet deep. Dug-out earth.

Harold gets to his feet, scrambles for position, but quickly realizes there's nowhere to turn or go.

He looks up. There's nothing to grab onto. No way to escape.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "LOS ANGELES - 16 YEARS AGO"

INT. LIVING ROOM

A woman in her 30s, JUDITH HAINES, hangs up the phone. She is shocked, devastated. Speechless.

She turns and looks at her two young girls playing across the room, eight and six years old. JANET and VERA.

Tears in her eyes, she slowly walks over to them. Kneels beside them. They look at her quizzically.

She pulls them in for a long, slow, wordless hug...

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - DAY

SUPER: "MOUNT ST. HELENS - PRESENT DAY"

Paul moves quickly but carefully along the hillside. He sees a young woman over the ridge in the distance. This is JANET HAINES, now 24.

She immediately comes across as strong and no-nonsense.

JANET

(yells)

Paul -- !

PAUL

Over here...!

JANET

What the hell are you doing -- ?

They start walking toward each other.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - MOMENTS LATER

Janet and Paul are moving together down a hillside.

JANET

You can't just go off on your own like that.

PAUL

I know...

JANET

Do you? I just had to spend half an hour looking for you.

PAUL

We're in the mountains. How can you not take a look at the scenery?

JANET

That's not what we're here for. You can see all the scenery you need along the way.

Paul shakes his head. Janet turns to him.

JANET (CONT'D)

And it's dangerous...! People do get lost in the mountains. They fall down, get injured, get killed... They disappear -- !

PAUL

Okay...! I'm sorry.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - ALONG A TRAIL - MOMENTS LATER

Janet and Paul approach VERA HAINES, now 22, Janet's sister. A firebrand.

VERA

Paul! -- What the hell's the matter with you?!

PAUL

Yeah, I know --

VERA

We can't be climbing all over the mountain looking for you!

Paul nods.

VERA (CONT'D)

People have disappeared out here -- Vanished -- !  
You think it doesn't happen that often, so it won't happen to you...?

PAUL

I was just -- taking a moment...

VERA

Well your moment took a lot of our moments.

JANET

Alright. I think he gets the message. I hope he gets the message.

PAUL

Yeah. It won't happen again.

He looks at both of them.

JANET

Let's go. We need to catch up to the others.

PAUL

My thought exactly.

JANET

Yeah.

They start moving down the trail.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - OVER THE NEXT RIDGE

Janet, Vera and Paul approach a GROUP of four others - graduate students GINA KAPLAN, 24, TESSA BROCK, 23, TANYA JANKEL, 24, and DERMOT FOSTER, 23. They look both impatient and a bit relieved.

VERA

Alright, we found his sorry ass. Let's get back on the trail.

DERMOT

Way to go, Paul. Thought we might have to go searching for your body.

PAUL

I was fine, alright? I was going to catch up to you guys.

GINA

How were we to know that?

PAUL

Okay -- let me say it again --

He turns to face all of them, then spreads out his arms with a minor flourish.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I apologize to everyone... Alright?

He briefly awaits a response. The others just stare at him.

He glances down, then addresses Janet and Vera.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Look -- I know this is important to you guys. You haven't seen your Dad since you were kids...

JANET

Yeah. Our father disappeared out here sixteen years ago.

PAUL

I get it. Coming out here must be difficult for you.  
Both of you.

VERA

Actually I didn't really know him. I mean as a  
person. I was a bit young to have heart-to-hearts  
with dear old dad.

Paul is a bit taken aback.

PAUL

That's a shame. How old were you then?

Vera doesn't answer. Janet looks at her.

JANET

Vera was six. I was eight.

A beat.

JANET (CONT'D)

I remember him. I remember him well.

He looks at her.

PAUL

...That's good.

JANET

And I remember my father disappearing...

She looks over at Vera.

JANET (CONT'D)

...Our mother trying to hide her trauma. I remember  
her awaiting news from the search parties that went  
out looking for him... They never found anything.

VERA

He and his group weren't the only ones. Two other  
expeditions disappeared out here years earlier.

PAUL

I know. 1924 and 1937.

JANET

Yeah. That's why this area got dubbed Devil Canyon.

PAUL

Your Dad was looking for evidence of what happened.

VERA

Yeah. So don't be thinking it can't happen to you because it was decades ago.

PAUL

Alright. I get it. Can we drop it now...?

VERA

Sure. Consider it dropped.

They all move past him, continuing down the trail. He turns and follows them.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

SUPER: "PORTLAND, OREGON - THREE MONTHS AGO"

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Janet, dressed business casual, is working on her laptop while sitting beside her mother JUDITH, now 50, who lies very still in her hospital bed. An IV is hooked to her arm. Monitors quietly display their numbers. Only one bedside lamp is on.

Judith moves her head slightly to the side. Janet perks up at this unexpected movement.

JANET

Mom...?

Judith hardly moves. Doesn't open her eyes. But she's trying to say something..

JUDITH

Harold...

Janet looks at her, confused...

JUDITH (CONT'D)

Harold.

JANET

Mom...? Dad's not...

JUDITH

Harold...?

JANET

Mom... Dad's been gone... for a long time...

JUDITH

Harold... I need you...

JANET

Mom... Harold's not here... Mom...

Judith seems to go back to sleep.

Janet looks at the monitors, and seeing nothing amiss, slowly sits back down, concern etched in her face.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT.

SUPER: "PRESENT DAY"

Janet's group of seven is looking for evidence in the same remote canyon of the earlier incidents.

CLOSE-UPS of hand tools sifting through earth and gravel.

VERA stands to the side, holding a CAMERA.

Dermott stops, looks frustrated. Pulls up a dirty water bottle... Tosses it aside. Janet comes over.

JANET

What was that?

DERMOT

Nothing, plastic crap left by careless hikers.

JANET

How do you know? Don't throw anything aside until I can look at it. We need to be sure.

DERMOT

It's been too long. A geology professor couldn't find what we're looking for.

Vera pipes in -

VERA

Then maybe you shouldn't be here...!

Everyone looks at her.

VERA (CONT'D)

But what do I know -- I'm the journalism major.

DERMOT

It's my fault. Sometimes I shoot off my mouth. Forget it.

JANET

Let's take a break.

The group takes a moment, sits down. Tessa hands out some bottles.

TESSA

Water?

GINA

Thanks.

Janet sees Vera sit a few yards away by herself.

MEMORY FLASH - INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT (THREE MONTHS AGO)

CLOSE on feet running down the hospital hallway -

BACK TO PRESENT

Janet looks at Vera -

FLASHBACK - HOSPITAL HALLWAY (THREE MONTHS AGO)

Now we see it's Janet running down the hallway - A mother with two young children gives her a look as she sprints past them -

Janet reaches a DOORWAY - Goes into the

HOSPITAL ROOM

Vera looks up as Janet enters. Vera is at their mother's bedside. Vera's face registers sadness... and guilt...

Janet looks at their mother - hoping for something better than the worst...

BACK TO PRESENT

Janet slowly sits on the ground beside Vera.

JANET

I'm glad you're here.

VERA

How could I miss it? Grad archaeology students looking for legendary disappearances from years ago.

(dubious tone)

Possible sighting of a rare breed... The 1924 miners claimed it was some kind of ape men that attacked them... Dermot is probably right.

JANET

No. We'll find something.

VERA

Now that would be a story -- The last undiscovered creature. An unknown species of ape in the American Northwest.

JANET

Vera...

VERA

According to those 1924 miners, it exists! Their story formed the basis for the Bigfoot legend.

JANET

Are you having fun?

VERA

You know it was more likely landslides. This area does have landslides. Miners have been known to get caught in landslides.

JANET

Our father would not have been caught in a landslide.

VERA

Why not...?

JANET

I'm sure he knew what he was doing...

VERA

Because he was an archeologist?

JANET

Yes! Because he was an archeologist! Why not?

VERA

You know this area is volatile. The 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption devastated the whole area. Hundreds of square miles. The only significant volcanic eruption in the contiguous 48 states in the last one-hundred years.

JANET

I'm glad you got the stats down.

VERA

Journalists like to do research... The north face of the mountain slid away, supposedly causing the largest landslide ever recorded. Did you know one of the men killed that day was a geologist?

JANET

Yeah. I do research too. Everyone knew an eruption was coming. They just didn't expect it would be as big as it was.

VERA

And then it was too late.

JANET

But that was nearly forty years ago. There was no eruption or major landslide here sixteen years ago.

VERA

A landslide could explain why they never found him...

JANET

The multiple search parties would have seen evidence of any landslide... Okay? There was no landslide.

Vera shakes her head.

JANET (CONT'D)

I'm going to find out what happened to him. Maybe not today. But I'm going to find something.

VERA

I wish you luck.

Janet takes a breath. Pulls out her cellphone.

JANET

You remember this...?

Janet brings up a photo - It shows a man - Harold Haines, looking much the same as how we saw him earlier, only now in casual civilian wear rather than mountaineering gear.

But what catches our eye is the happy TWO-YEAR-OLD GIRL he is thrusting up in the air. His arms are UPRAISED, confidently anticipating a sure catch. The girl's smile shows no fear.

VERA

That's you, not me.

JANET

But you remember the photo.

VERA

Sure. Looks like you were really into it.

JANET

I wish I could remember.

VERA

Yeah. Mom says he tried it with me, but I did not appreciate it.

Janet gives a little CHUCKLE.

JANET

Less spirit of adventure back then, eh?

VERA

Or more common sense.

JANET

Vera...

Janet looks around...

JANET (CONT'D)

We're out here for our father. That's why we're here. Okay? Can you get on board with that?

Vera sighs, nods. Looks down. Janet looks at her.

JANET (CONT'D)

And another thing I should get off my chest... We never really talked about the night Mom died.

VERA

What do you mean...?

JANET

You were watching her that night.

VERA

Yeah, so...?

JANET

I had called earlier. I offered to come in.

(pause)

You said not to. You said she was stable. You said I should stay away -- wait my turn.

VERA

Janet, I didn't say "Stay away." I reminded you we were taking turns, and you had been there the night before.

JANET

Our mother was dying of cancer. We knew that.

VERA

But no one knew when it would happen. You were in the middle of midterms. You couldn't be there all the time.

Janet shakes her head.

JANET

I had the feeling... that night might be it. I felt this need, to go in...

VERA

And I told you she was stable... because she was. Then later, she... went into a sudden decline.

Vera looks at Janet.

VERA (CONT'D)

I called you.

JANET

And I came racing over... But it was too late.

FLASHBACK - HOSPITAL ROOM (THREE MONTHS AGO)

Janet goes past Vera, a doctor and nurse to her mother's bedside - Judith lies still... Janet takes her hand...

BACK TO PRESENT

JANET

I don't think I ever told you how hurt... and angry I was.

(pause)

I know it's not your fault... I've tried, over the last three months, to not hold it against you.

Vera looks down. She is a bit stunned to hear this, but suppresses herself from saying anything.

JANET (CONT'D)

I realized later -- how much of an impact that had on me. How much worse it made it. That I could have been there. But wasn't.

VERA

I'm sorry for that.

JANET

I imagine you meant no harm.

VERA

No.

For a moment they both sit there. Then Vera can no longer contain herself.

VERA (CONT'D)

I can't believe you.

JANET

What?

VERA

Why didn't you tell me this before?

JANET

Because I didn't think you'd take it well.

VERA

Do you really think that was my fault?

JANET

I said I didn't. It's not a matter of whose fault it was.

VERA

You say that, but do you mean it? I can't believe you held on to that. Why are you so inauthentic? Why can't you just be honest with me?

JANET

What are you talking about?

VERA

Why am I only hearing about this now? Out here, where I'm trapped with you?

JANET

Are you going to make me sorry I invited you to join in on this trip?

VERA

Are you going to make me sorry I came with you?

JANET

Apparently I already have.

VERA

Yeah. That's right.

Vera gets up and walks off by herself.

Janet shakes her head, then slowly rises. She turns and watches Vera as she continues off, heading in the opposite direction from the group. Janet calls after her.

JANET

Where are you going?

No answer. Vera keeps walking.

JANET (CONT'D)

(louder)

Vera -- Where are you going?

Vera looks back at her with an impatient glare.

VERA

I have to take care of business. Okay...?

Vera continues.

Janet shakes her head again, then turns and rejoins the group.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - WOODS - NIGHT (16 YEARS AGO)

All is quiet. Until the BEAR-LIKE ROAR is heard in the distance...

INSIDE THE HOLE

Harold anxiously looks up - then he hears the ROAR again - it sounds closer...

Harold backs up against the side of the hole... He has very little room to maneuver.

Then the bear-like ROAR again - Now it definitely sounds closer...

Harold grits his teeth - keeps his eyes on the very limited view of dark tree branches and night sky - all he can see from fifteen feet down in the hole...

Suddenly there's a FLASH OF LIGHT in the sky - a burst of energy, followed by a SONIC BOOM in the distance -

Then the ROAR sounds again - but now it seems farther away...

Another ROAR - from a bit farther away... Whatever it is, it seems to be moving off...

Then Harold hears something new: FOOTSTEPS approaching.

He watches the hole opening from below...

A MAN'S HEAD IN SILHOUETTE comes into view. Looks down at him.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Janet's group is back to sifting for evidence through earth and gravel.

CLOSE on hands sifting. Dirt is brushed away - and a long BONE becomes visible -

DERMOT

Shit. I've got something here -- !

The others quickly come over.

PAUL

Man...!

GINA

Look at that.

Janet comes in close, kneels beside Dermot.

CUT TO:

NEARBY TREES - SAME TIME

Vera, alone, walks to an appropriate spot for her business. She hears a RUSTLING sound. She starts to turn around.

Suddenly something reaches out of the darkest area behind her... and grabs her, pulling her backwards...

She's gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - IN THE WOODS - SEEMINGLY SAME TIME

TWO MEN - let's call them HUNTERS - walk silently through the woods. The trees are thick. There's not much light.

We can't see much detail in their SILHOUETTES - but they are decked out in hunting gear, and they have guns. They move slowly, but with purpose, as if searching for something.

CUT TO:

EXT. CANYON - NEW FIND SITE

Janet brushes away more of the earth from around the newly found bone.

JANET

It's not human.

The others carefully help move dirt away from the find.

TESSA

What is it?

JANET

Looks like part of a foreleg. Probably a bear.

PAUL

A bear. Alrighty, then.

DERMOT

We have to be sure.

PAUL

A natural death in the woods...

The group continues sifting. Gina looks around.

GINA

Where's Vera?

TANYA

She's been gone at least fifteen minutes. Hope she brought lots of T.P.

Janet stands up. Looks around.

JANET

(shouts)

Vera!

No answer.

JANET (CONT'D)

VERA -- !!

Janet turns back to the group.

JANET (CONT'D)

I'm going to go looking for her.

TANYA

We should all go. You'll need people to spread out.

DERMOT

Everyone?

TANYA

I don't think anyone's going to steal your bear bone.

CUT TO:

NEARBY TREES - MOMENTS LATER

The group is moving through the trees.

GINA

Vera!

They spread out a bit.

JANET

Vera!

Paul breaks farther away, moving toward the lowest level of the canyon. No one notices.

CUT TO:

MOMENTS LATER

The group continues through the woods. They're becoming concerned.

TANYA

Vera -- !

TESSA

How far can she have gone to pee in privacy?

Tanya shakes her head.

JANET

turns around in a 360, looking in all directions. She YELLS:

JANET

VERA -- !!

Again no answer.

JANET (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Damn it!

Then Janet notices a FIGURE coming her direction from a distance. She squints at it.

It's Paul. He YELLS at her.

PAUL

Hey...!

The others rejoin Janet as Paul approaches.

JANET

Paul -- Where were you?

PAUL

There's a cave near the bottom of the canyon. Just down there... Isn't this Vera's jacket?

Janet steps forward to meet him. He hands her a jacket.

JANET

Yeah. It's Vera's jacket.

TESSA

Shit.

PAUL

I found it at the mouth of the cave.

JANET

Did you see anyone else down there?

PAUL

No. No one.

The others look at Janet. The mood has turned darker.

TESSA

She went into a cave?

TANYA

That doesn't sound like her.

GINA

No. But we should check it out.

Janet starts to get a little anxious.

JANET

Take us to this cave.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUTH OF THE CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

PAUL

I found the jacket here.

Janet looks into the cave. Shines her flashlight.

TANYA

Oh my god... I don't like caves...

Janet glances back at her, then carefully goes in about twenty feet. Looks around. Comes back out.

She looks at the rest of the group.

JANET

I'm going in. I'm going to find Vera.

A beat.

GINA

I'm going with you.

PAUL

Me too. What else are we going to do?

JANET

Alright. But Tessa -- you go back to the car.  
Someone should put in a missing person report.

TESSA

Where should I go?

JANET

The nearest ranger station. At least go far enough to  
get cell reception. Take it from there.

TESSA

Alright. Good luck.

Tessa leaves. Janet turns to the others.

JANET

Someone should stay behind here. In case we don't come out.

PAUL

Yeah.

No one volunteers. But Tanya clearly doesn't want to go into the cave.

JANET

Dermot, why don't you stay with Tanya.

Dermot nods.

Tanya isn't too sorry to have the decision made for her.

TANYA

Alright.

DERMOT

(to Janet)

Maybe you should wait for help.

JANET

That would take hours. I'm not waiting.

DERMOT

Okay. We'll be here... when you come back.

TANYA

With Vera.

They all look at each other.

JANET

Alright.

Janet nods at Paul and Gina. The three of them turn toward the opening and enter the cave.

Tanya calls after them.

TANYA

You'll be back.

INT. CAVE

Their flashlight beams pierce the dark space in front of them. The cave is about a dozen feet wide.

GINA

How deep do you suppose this goes?

JANET

I don't know.

In a SERIES OF SHOTS, the group progresses farther into the cave. The passageway starts sloping down, descending deeper.

They pause a few times to look around. The silence is eerie.

They come to a branch - the cave splits into two corridors.

GINA

(quietly)

Now what?

JANET

We have to pick one.

PAUL

We could split up...

They look at each other. None are enthusiastic.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Yeah, I don't really like that idea either.

Then they hear what sounds like a few small ROCKS FALLING to the cave floor several feet ahead of them, in the left corridor.

GINA

(whispers)

What's that...?

Janet crouches down reflexively, then slowly moves forward -

The other two start to follow -

Suddenly a DARK FIGURE approaches them from the other corridor - it lets out a GRIZZLY BEAR-LIKE ROAR -

They spin around - see a quick flash of a large furless gray arm with CLAWS coming at them -

Gina and Paul are both hit - they are THRUST back against Janet and the cave wall -

The dark silhouette of the creature RISES, standing upright - it nearly reaches the top of the cave, eight or nine feet high -

It ROARS again -

Gina SCREAMS -

It comes at them - white pointed teeth glisten against its dark form -

Suddenly a GUNSHOT rings out -

The creature reacts - twitches - turns around and ROARS -

Another GUNSHOT -

The creature runs straight at Janet, Gina, and Paul -

They try to duck down -

But the creature darts right past them - going farther into the cave -

It disappears from sight.

Janet, Gina, and Paul take a moment to catch their breath - then they see two HUMAN FORMS slowly coming toward them.

They have high-powered helmet-mounted LED lights. It's the two mysterious hunters seen earlier.

FIRST HUNTER

Don't move! Stay calm.

The group watches in astonishment as they approach. The hunters look them over. Paul GASPS in pain -

PAUL

My arm...

SECOND HUNTER

It's alright. We're here. Try to stay still.

The second hunter looks at Paul's left arm. It's torn and bleeding. He starts wrapping it with bandaging.

The first hunter approaches Janet.

JANET

Who are you -- ?

FIRST HUNTER

We're with the ADC agency.

JANET

The what...?

FIRST HUNTER

We're here to help.

JANET

Where did you come from? And what was that thing?

FIRST HUNTER

Please -- try to stay calm.

JANET

A large hominid like that only existed 300,000 years ago... And it wasn't any "ape man."

FIRST HUNTER

We don't really know, do we? And we're not in a position to give out explanations right now...

He turns to Gina.

FIRST HUNTER (CONT'D)

Can you sit up?

GINA

I can try...

FIRST HUNTER

You took a hard impact. I don't see any blood.

He puts her arm around his neck.

FIRST HUNTER (CONT'D)

Let's see if you can stand...

He helps her to her feet.

GINA

Ahh -- !

FIRST HUNTER

It's alright...

GINA

My foot! I don't know if I can walk...

FIRST HUNTER

Let's try again. Come on. You can do it.

The second hunter helps Paul and Janet to their feet.

SECOND HUNTER

Alright -- Slow and steady...

JANET

We have two friends, at the mouth of the cave.

The first hunter slowly approaches them with Gina, her arm around his neck.

FIRST HUNTER

We're going to the mouth now. Just concentrate on that... Nothing else matters right now.

The first hunter leads the way, with Gina limping beside him. The second follows with Paul and Janet.

In a SERIES OF SHOTS, the group progresses back up the main passageway.

They start ascending the part they descended earlier.

JANET

My sister -- is still in here somewhere. We need to find her.

SECOND HUNTER

There's nothing we can do about that now.

JANET

I need to know... what the hell is going on...

The hunter shakes his head.

PAUL

Let's... get out of here first...

Suddenly there's an ear-splitting ROAR - the creature has come up behind them -- !

The second hunter turns toward it -

But a dark gray arm swings out - HITS him - flinging him against the wall -

Another swipe - Janet and Paul are THRUST across the cave -

The first hunter releases Gina - she falls - he brings up his gun -

But then the creature is on him - frenzied claws and white teeth flash against its dark form -

The hunter SCREAMS -

Then his torn-up body falls -

Janet sees the gun of the second hunter on the ground near her - she quickly reaches out and picks it up -

The creature lunges for Paul - takes a vicious swipe at him -

Paul is flung to the side -

Janet aims the gun - FIRES -

The creature is hit - it gives a different ROAR - one in rage and pain -

It lumbers toward Janet -

She FIRES again - and AGAIN -

The creature pulls back - ROARS again -

Then turns and disappears back into the darkness.

Janet looks down at her wounded left arm and leg. She looks at the scattered members of the group.

She limps over to Paul.

JANET

Paul --

His chest is torn open. He's gone.

She turns to the next closest, the second hunter. His arms and legs are torn and bleeding, but he's still alive.

JANET (CONT'D)

Oh my God...

The hunter struggles for each breath. He tries to say something...

JANET (CONT'D)

Hold on...

Janet looks in the direction of the first hunter and Gina.

She limps over to him. He's clearly dead.

She moves beyond him, toward Gina.

Gina is breathing hard, but trying to keep quiet.

Her arm is bleeding. She looks at Janet.

GINA

What are we going to do...?

JANET

We're going to get out of here.

She goes back to the second hunter. He clearly cannot be moved. Seeing his supply box, she pulls out some bandages. It seems hopeless for his injuries, but she tries wrapping them up as best as possible.

He looks up - makes eye contact with her.

JANET (CONT'D)

I've got to get help.

He tries to speak - but can't.

JANET (CONT'D)

Alright. I'm going to go outside. But I'll be back.

He slowly nods at her.

Janet limps back to Gina.

GINA  
How are the others...?

JANET  
Not good. Come on...

Janet tries to help Gina up, but as soon as weight is put on her leg she lets out a CRY of pain.

Gina collapses.

GINA  
I can't...

JANET  
You have to.

Janet helps her up again. Gina keeps an arm around Janet's neck for support.

GINA  
This is going to be... slow going.

JANET  
I'm not leaving you.

In a SERIES OF SHOTS, Janet and Gina continue back the way they came. Progress is slow and painful.

Janet struggles to help Gina along.

Then they see a bit of light filtering in from well ahead.

JANET (CONT'D)  
Look... Daylight.

Gina looks up.

GINA  
You go ahead. I'm just holding you back.

JANET

I'm not leaving you now. We're going to make it.  
Come on.

Still limping, they push on forward, slightly faster.

CUT TO:

MOMENTS LATER

Janet and Gina are slowly approaching the

MOUTH OF THE CAVE

There's no one else visible at first.

JANET

I don't see Tanya or Dermot.

Reaching the mouth, they look out.

No sign of their friends. The terrain looks a little different. A little less green, perhaps.

And they see something totally new.

A CAMPSITE covered in silverwrap has been set up a couple hundred feet up the canyon from them. FUTURISTIC EQUIPMENT they've never seen before is being deployed by MEN in unusual uniforms.

Janet and Gina start along the bottom of the

MOUNTAINOUS CANYON

toward them.

The men look up in surprise. Two of them, KALLENBACH and NEMEC, quickly start down the canyon to meet them.

Their manner is cool and professional, like cops that just pulled someone over.

KALLENBACH

Alright, easy does it.

NEMEC

You need some help there...?

Janet is a bit out of breath.

JANET

Yeah... Where did you come from?

KALLENBACH

We're with the ADC group.

JANET

That again. We met two of your people back in the cave.

KALLENBACH

Where are they now?

JANET

They're not in good shape. We were attacked. In the cave. People are dead. -- And injured. Including your two guys.

KALLENBACH

(to Nemec)

Get the P-Squad.

NEMEC

Yes, sir.

Nemec reaches for a small communicator device in his ear.

NEMEC (CONT'D)

We've picked up two civilians at the mouth of Cave A5. Taking them to Base Camp Beta. Scramble the P-Squad.

Kallenbach steps toward Janet and Gina.

KALLENBACH

Here -- let us help...

He places Gina's free arm around his neck. Nemeč steps in for Janet, so now Gina has two people supporting her.

Gina and Janet are both a bit wary, but accept the help.

KALLENBACH (CONT'D)

Okay. One step at a time.

They continue along the rocky terrain.

CUT TO:

MOMENTS LATER

The four of them approach the campsite.

Nemeč breaks off to take the lead of a SQUAD of four men with advanced, FUTURISTIC-LOOKING RIFLES. They quickly move out past Kallenbach, Janet and Gina -- they start down the canyon toward the cave.

INT. BASE CAMP BETA - LARGE TENT SET-UP

Kallenbach, Janet and Gina enter the large tent - Several of the DOZEN PERSONNEL in paramilitary uniforms glance up at them.

KALLENBACH

On alert, people! We've got a likely QM sighting and casualties! Be ready for anything!

Kallenbach and Janet help Gina to a cot, which she collapses onto. Janet leans close to reassure her.

JANET

(quietly)

It's okay, honey... We made it. We're out of the cave. You're going to be alright.

Gina smiles weakly at her.

A MEDIC approaches and brusquely gestures for Janet to move back.

MEDIC

If you could give me some room...

He starts checking Gina over.

MEDIC (CONT'D)

Alright, relax...

Janet stands for a moment. Kallenbach gestures toward a table.

KALLENBACH

Perhaps you should sit down. Your friend will be attended to.

JANET

I'm okay right here.

KALLENBACH

It's not a suggestion.

Janet looks at him. He gestures toward the table again.

Janet takes a seat. Kallenbach sits across from her.

JANET

My sister is missing...

KALLENBACH

Your name?

JANET

Janet Haines. That is Gina Kaplan.  
(pointedly)  
And my missing sister is Vera.

Kallenbach leans toward her -

KALLENBACH

Who sent you here?

JANET

What? No one sent us here.

KALLENBACH

Then why are you here?

JANET

We were in the cave looking for my sister. Then something attacked us. You know what it is?

KALLENBACH

Can you describe it?

JANET

It was dark. But this thing was... big. Bigger than a grizzly.

KALLENBACH

We're here to find it. To bring it in.

JANET

So you know what it is.

KALLENBACH

What were you doing out here? Why were you in the cave?

JANET

We're archaeology grad students. UCLA. My sister went missing, like I said. We need to find her...

KALLENBACH

How many were in your group?

Then they hear something - imagine the SOUND of a large grizzly you can't see bounding towards you -

Kallenbach and Janet turn to the left side of the tent -

Suddenly that large unseen something COLLIDES with the side of the tent - Janet JUMPS - a shelf falls over -

There's a loud ROAR - the same as heard in the cave - the tent side is TORN OPEN -

Janet, Kallenbach and the others react as the CREATURE from the cave comes through and attacks in a frenzy of CHAOS -

It knocks over equipment -

The men FIRE at it -

It lets out a ROAR -

It charges at them - swipes two of them away like they're nothing -

Then it stops, as if waiting to see if anyone else will dare challenge it -

Janet gets a better look at it than before - it looks like a gorilla/grizzly hybrid, but without fur. Greyish skin. A weird Cro-Magnon-like shaped head, with the back of the skull protruding.

Kallenbach opens FIRE on it. It snaps toward him, then dashes to the side -

Janet picks up a gun one of the men dropped - she opens FIRE as well -

The creature turns around - a ray of light picks up its hunched over back, with scars and bullet wounds -

It then seems to look at Janet across the space between them -

She looks into its deep-set eyes -

It abruptly turns and lets out its freakish ROAR again -

Then a small object comes through the tent opening and rolls several dozen feet into the tent. Kallenbach is startled -

KALLENBACH (CONT'D)

Grenade -- !!

He grabs Janet and pulls her to the ground. Other men also hit the deck -

The grenade EXPLODES thirty feet from the creature -

Debris flies around, then slowly settles - two men closest to the blast are badly wounded -

The creature turns, moves swiftly toward the left side of the tent -

It CRASHES through the tent wall -

Janet looks up as it runs off outside.

Several other men grab their guns and run

OUTSIDE

They quickly fan out, but no enemy or creature is visible. They start moving cautiously through the nearest trees.

Then GUNBLASTS ring out from a distance away. The men take cover and return FIRE with futuristic bursts of energy.

IN THE LARGE TENT

The hanging light has gone out. It's now rather dark, with some daylight filtering in.

Janet glances around anxiously. Looks at Kallenbach. A layer of dust and debris covers everything.

JANET

What the fuck -- ?

KALLENBACH

We're not the only ones looking for the QM specimen.

JANET

You mean that creature.

Kallenbach moves to the tent opening, looks outside at his men.

OUTSIDE

One of the men pulls out what appears to be a metallic grenade. A futuristic weapon. He lobs it in the direction of their attackers. The men duck down.

A strong PULSE of light suddenly flashes through the trees, followed by a SONIC BOOM.

IN THE TENT

The FLASH comes into the tent, followed by the BOOM.

Janet is startled, crouches down. Looks at Kallenbach. He seems unperturbed. More GUNSHOTS are heard in the distance.

Janet is BREATHING HARD. Lowers the gun she used on the creature. She looks at the debris strewn around the tent, then turns to Kallenbach.

He looks at her.

KALLENBACH

You did good.

Kallenbach moves silently past Janet toward his wounded men, where the medic is already attending them.

The medic nods that he's alright to Kallenbach.

KALLENBACH (CONT'D)

Keep alert. Do what you can for them.

Janet gets up, walks over to Gina on the medic's cot.

Gina grimaces in pain, but it seems to be from the same leg injury. Janet bends down to her.

JANET

(quietly)

Hold on. You'll be alright.

GINA

What the hell was that...?

JANET

A creature they're after. But Vera's still out there somewhere.

GINA

What can we do...?

Janet shakes her head. They exchange anxious looks. Then Janet notices the elaborate detailing on the equipment.

JANET

This is like no medical gear I've seen before...

Off Janet's concerned face, we

CUT TO BLACK.

BLACK SCREEN - INSIDE THE HOLE - NIGHT

A high-beam flashlight shines down into THE HOLE. A SECOND MAN'S HEAD IN SILHOUETTE appears over the rim.

A ROPE drops down to Harold. He hesitates a moment, then takes hold of it. He climbs up.

A hand reaches down, pulls him up the last couple feet to the

SURFACE

Two men, ROXBURGH and KERCHER, 30s, give him a look over. Harold is both grateful and anxious.

HAROLD

Thanks.

Roxburgh and Kercher look at each other, then back at Harold. Harold tries not to be put off by their non-response.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Thanks for pulling me up. What is...

ROXBURGH

We'll ask the questions.

KERCHER

You're lucky you're alive.

ROXBURGH

Who are you?

HAROLD

I'm Harold Haines. I was leading a group of archaeologists... We were attacked. My whole group...

ROXBURGH

That's what this trap was for.

Harold looks down into it, then back at the men.

HAROLD

What...? You mean...

KERCHER

We thought for a moment it might fall in on top of you... but then we would never get your story, would we?

ROXBURGH

Let's go.

They lead him into the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADC GROUP BASE CAMP ALPHA - LATER

This camp looks a lot like the one we saw previously, though it is set up in a different part of the canyon, and it looks larger, a bit more elaborate. Two futuristic Humvee-type VEHICLES are parked beside it.

INT. BASE CAMP ALPHA - LARGE TENT SET-UP

Roxburgh and Kercher walk in with Harold. A half-dozen other men mill around doing various tasks.

They approach one of the men. It's Kallenbach. Looking much the same as when we first saw him.

*(As will become apparent, this is actually an earlier timeline.)*

Nemec and other men seen earlier are here as well.

Kallenbach looks at Harold.

KALLENBACH

What's this?

ROXBURGH

We caught a civilian in the trap.

Kallenbach steps closer to Harold.

KALLENBACH

You shouldn't be here.

HAROLD

My group was attacked --

KALLENBACH

(to Roxburgh)

Did you see anyone else?

ROXBURGH

No.

KALLENBACH

(to Harold)

Who are you?

HAROLD

I'm an archaeologist. Harold Haines. Your man here tells me you're after the -- thing that attacked my group...

KALLENBACH

We were trying to minimize outside contact.

Kallenbach looks at Roxburgh and Kercher.

KALLENBACH (CONT'D)

You two are off the detail.

ROXBURGH

What?

KALLENBACH

You just brought me a civilian. Your trap is not a good use of our time.

KERCHEK

If we want to take the QM alive, the trap --

KALLENBACH

You two are going to be reassigned. Lock this man in the holding cell.

ROXBURGH

Come on.

Roxburgh and Kercher lead Harold to a HOLDING CELL in a corner. Kercher shoves Harold inside.

HAROLD

Guys -- wait! Can I get a phone call?

Roxburgh pushes a button - a door swiftly slides shut. It has a square-foot mesh window. Harold yells out as Roxburgh and Kercher walk away.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

You don't have the right to do this! Hey! -- I need to talk to my lawyer!

CUT TO:

INT. BASE CAMP ALPHA TENT - LATER

Harold, alone in the cell, hears raised VOICES.

IN THE MAIN AREA

Roxburgh and Kercher are standing nearby as Kallenbach and Nemeč talk. Two men, ROVEN and GOSTELI, have joined the debate.

KALLENBACH

We can't risk the QM. We need to take it alive.

NEMEC

What we're risking is lives. If this goes south, people will get killed.

ROVEN

I'm sorry, Nemeč is right. We should lure it with a mate, then kill them both, if necessary.

KALLENBACH

A bit precipitous, don't you think?

GOSTELI

We can hold off on that until it's absolutely necessary.

Roxburgh steps forward.

ROXBURGH

Sir, we have another approach...

KALLENBACH

Roxburgh -- enough. You and Kercher are back-benched. On guard duty.

ROXBURGH

Yes, sir.

Kallenbach shakes his head.

KALLENBACH

I've got to get back to work.

Kallenbach walks toward the front entrance.

Roxburgh and Kercher look at each other. They're not happy.

CUT TO:

INT. BASE CAMP ALPHA TENT - LATER

Roxburgh and Kercher slowly approach the cell door. Harold looks out the mesh at them. No one else is nearby.

ROXBURGH

(quietly)

Looks like you're going to be here a while.

HAROLD

You can't hold me indefinitely.

KERCHEr

They can hold you until the end of time if they want.

ROXBURGH

Unless you want to play ball.

KERCHEr

With us.

HAROLD

What do you mean?

ROXBURGH

You interested in the QM specimen?

HAROLD

I'm a scientist. I'm very interested in the QM specimen.

ROXBURGH

We're going to track it down and take it ourselves.

HAROLD

Really. Is everyone here in it for themselves?

ROXBURGH

We're for hire. They run their operation as if they're special forces, but this is for a corporation. We're all really mercenaries.

KERCHEr

It attacked your group. You've been as close to it as anyone. And we thought you might feel you have accounts to settle.

ROXBURGH

And we could use another set of hands. So unless you'd like to stay in there --

HAROLD

No, I'm up for it.

KERCHER

Good. Keep in mind -- the QM is worth a lot more alive than dead. But we can go either way.

ROXBURGH

And if you do anything to make us regret this, the same goes for you.

HAROLD

Right.

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - WOODS - DAY

Harold is with Roxburgh and Kercher. They move through the woods.

Suddenly Roxburgh's COMMUNICATOR comes to life - They hear Nemec's VOICE:

NEMEC (O.S.)

We've picked up two civilians at the mouth of Cave A5. Taking them to Base Camp Beta. Scramble the P-Squad.

*(This is the same message we saw Nemec send earlier.)*

Harold perks up at hearing of anyone beyond these paramilitary types. Roxburgh looks at Harold.

ROXBURGH

Two civilians. Could those be your people?

Harold shakes his head.

HAROLD

We weren't at a cave.

Harold tries to hide his interest.

ROXBURGH

Let's check it out.

CANYON - MOMENTS LATER

Roxburgh, Kercher and Harold take cover when they get within 200 feet of BASE CAMP BETA, the tent camp Janet and Gina first saw. They watch silently from the trees.

Kercher watches the camp through BINOCULARS.

Then they see FOUR FIGURES approaching the camp from the distance.

KERCHEER

Have a look.

Kercher hands Roxburgh the binoculars.

ROXBURGH'S POV THROUGH BINOCULARS

He sees Janet, with Kallenbach and NemeC helping Gina toward the large tent. (*It's the SCENE we saw EARLIER - from ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE.*)

NemeC joins the P-Squad and heads back down toward the cave.

ROXBURGH (O.S.)

Two women -- civilians.

ROXBURGH

looks at Harold.

ROXBURGH (CONT'D)

You know them?

HAROLD

You want to give me a look?

Roxburgh hands Harold the binoculars.

## HAROLD'S POV THROUGH BINOCULARS

The scope focuses in on Janet. Watches her go into the tent with the other two.

HAROLD

lowers the binoculars. Something about Janet catches his interest. But he doesn't recognize the daughter he hasn't seen since she was eight years old.

ROXBURGH

You recognize them?

HAROLD

No.

Roxburgh takes the binoculars back.

They watch as Nemec and the P-Squad continue down the canyon toward the cave.

A minute or more goes by. The squad goes beyond their sightline in the distance, presumably to approach the cave.

Then Harold notices a large shape MOVING QUICKLY -

It emerges from the woods and, as the three of them watch, it CRASHES right through the side of the tent -

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Holy shit --

They hear the sounds of CHAOS - equipment being knocked over, then GUNSHOTS - *(the same sequence we saw from inside the tent earlier.)*

Kercher pulls out a grenade launcher. Looks at Roxburgh.

KERCHER

I'm taking my shot.

Roxburgh nods.

Harold is startled.

HAROLD

Wait a minute...

KERCHEK

Keep back --

Kercher quickly loads the launcher, steps forward and aims - FIRES -

The grenade bounces once or twice and goes into the tent -

Then the EXPLOSION is seen, this time from OUTSIDE. The heavy tent material reverberates, but does not collapse.

Harold looks at the other two.

HAROLD

What are you doing -- ?

ROXBURGH

We can't let them get it...

From their position 200 feet away, Harold, Roxburgh and Kercher watch the creature BURST OUT of the large tent and rampage away. It disappears into the trees.

ROXBURGH (CONT'D)

Incredible.

KERCHEK

They're going to go after it now. We've got to make sure they don't succeed.

Then several men run out from the tent - they spread out, looking for where the grenade came from...

Very soon a few are coming through the trees in the direction of our group -

Roxburgh and Kercher pull out their guns and OPEN FIRE on the approaching men, still at least a hundred feet away -

The men take cover behind trees and return FIRE with futuristic bursts of energy.

Harold ducks, then turns to Kercher.

HAROLD

You said the QM is worth more alive than dead.

KERCHEK

I drove it off -- I didn't kill it.

ROXBURGH

(to Harold)

Look. -- You're either with us...

KERCHEK

Or against us.

ONE HUNDRED FEET AWAY

One of the men pulls out a metallic grenade. Loads it in a launcher. He FIRES it in the direction of their attackers. The men duck down.

A strong PULSE of light flashes through the trees -

HAROLD

ducks as a SONIC BOOM sweeps over them. He, Roxburgh and Kercher are momentarily stunned.

They slowly rise up - then see -

A dozen men are aggressively coming in their direction -

Roxburgh and Kercher scramble to their feet as SHOTS whiz by, hitting the trees near them -

Kercher gets off a SHOT -

ROXBURGH

Let's go --

Harold tries to get up - more SHOTS fly by just above him - He drops back down to the ground -

Roxburgh and Kercher run off -

Harold hugs the ground - then makes one more attempt to get up -

More SHOTS force him back down -

Then the men are upon him.

MAN

Don't move!

They pat him down like police.

Gosteli steps forward. Looks at Harold.

GOSTELI

On your feet.

Two men bring Harold up. Gosteli looks him in the face. Harold, grim and disheveled, looks back at him.

HAROLD

It wasn't me.

Gosteli nods.

GOSTELI

Get the others.

Several of the men continue in the direction Roxburgh and Kercher took.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUTH OF THE CAVE - SAME TIME

Nemec and his P-SQUAD of four men arrive at the cave. They shine their light beams inside.

NEMEC

Move in!

They enter.

INT. CAVE

The men move forward, on the lookout for anything that might point to a living creature...

They get fifty feet in when they see -

Feminine arms crawling forward... A head rises from the cave floor to look up.

It's Vera.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. BASE CAMP BETA - LARGE TENT SET-UP - DAY

Janet is at Gina's cot. Gina has fallen asleep.

Janet looks up - sees the P-Squad enter - holding up Vera between them.

Janet rushes toward them -

JANET

Vera -- ! I can't believe it! You're here!

VERA

Janet?

Janet goes to hug her, then helps her toward a cot near Gina.

JANET

Here, lay down...

VERA

Where are we?

JANET

We're still trying to figure that out.

Gina wakes up.

GINA

Hey, girl...

VERA

Hey -- You've looked better.

GINA

I know... Same goes for you.

Nemec looks at Kallenbach. They briefly confer. Kallenbach walks over to Janet and Vera.

KALLENBACH

We have some questions. You two obviously know each other?

JANET

Yes. This is my sister Vera, I was looking for in the cave...

VERA

You were in the cave...?

JANET

Yes. We found your jacket...

Kallenbach interrupts -

KALLENBACH

(to Janet)

I need to question her. If you could give me some room --

JANET

Some room...?

KALLENBACH

Yes. If you could give us some space...

JANET

But...

Roven comes over, slowly escorts Janet to a table twenty feet away. Janet looks over at the two of them, her impatience and anger rising.

KALLENBACH

sits beside the cot. He looks at Vera.

KALLENBACH

What happened to you?

JANET

watches. Can barely hear them. She wants to know this as well.

VERA

looks Kallenbach in the eye.

VERA

I went off to pee... I was grabbed by two men... I didn't see them coming.

KALLENBACH

Two men...?

VERA

Yeah. They had guns. They told me to keep quiet, in no uncertain terms. They took me to that cave...

She grimaces.

VERA (CONT'D)

Made me go with them... into it. I had no chance to get away...

KALLENBACH

Then what...?

VERA

We went in, further and further... Then they left me there... with no flashlight. They told me not to move, but after a while I tried to blindly crawl out. It was totally dark. I was in there for hours.

KALLENBACH

With no light...?

VERA

No light. It was a strange dark hell... But I kept crawling.

KALLENBACH

Nemec says they found you near the mouth of the cave. You're one tough girl.

VERA

I'm not a girl.

KALLENBACH

I was tempted to say something else.

VERA

What -- one tough bitch?

Kallenbach smiles.

KALLENBACH

Would you rather hear that?

VERA

Not from a man I just met.

KALLENBACH

I actually thought for a second -- one tough soldier.  
But you're not one, are you.

VERA

No. And I don't see any women around here.

KALLENBACH

We're a special forces unit, for a private concern.  
It's very selective.

VERA

No place for troublesome interlopers...

KALLENBACH

No.

He gets up. Walks off. Vera shakes her head, more than a bit irked.

JANET

glances at Roven. He walks off.

Janet rises from the table and walks back over to Vera's cot.

JANET

Can't get rid of you, can I?

VERA

Not gonna happen...

Vera looks over at Gina, then back at Janet.

VERA (CONT'D)

Where are the others?

Janet looks down.

JANET

We were attacked, in the cave. Paul... was killed.  
We had to leave him there...

VERA

What? What the hell's going on?

JANET

They're looking for a creature. The one that  
attacked us.

VERA

A creature... A fucking creature? Killed Paul...?

JANET

Yeah.

Janet leans closer to whisper -

JANET (CONT'D)

And we don't know where we are, or what they're  
really doing around here... and I don't like any of it.

VERA

Meaning what...?

JANET

They're secretive about everything. I want to get  
out, have a look around for myself...

Then they hear some commotion outside. A man is brusquely thrust into the tent by two  
unit members.

It's HAROLD. Their father. Janet and Vera look at him. A man they haven't seen in 16  
years. Looking much the same as when they last saw him. But can it be?

Gosteli pushes Harold forward.

GOSTELI

We caught this one outside. Just after the attack.  
Another two got away.

HAROLD

I had nothing to do with that --

Kallenbach approaches Harold.

KALLENBACH

But you did join the rogues, Roxburgh and Kercher.

HAROLD

They took me. They thought I knew something about the creature...

KALLENBACH

And you're still alive. So where are they now?  
Where are your friends?

HAROLD

They're not my friends. They were your men.

KALLENBACH

Not anymore.

JANET

is still stunned to see him. She turns to Vera.

JANET

Vera -- doesn't he look like -- ?

VERA

Yeah. He does look like him. But that doesn't mean...

Janet gets up. Starts slowly approaching Harold.

Kallenbach intercepts her.

KALLENBACH

What are you doing?

JANET

(quietly)

I think I know that man...

Harold looks at her quizzically.

KALLENBACH

(to Janet)

He could be dangerous. Keep away from him.

JANET

But --

KALLENBACH

We have an unstable situation here. It's not safe. I suggest you go back and rejoin your sister.

Janet just stands there. She really wants to get a closer look at this guy.

Kallenbach leans toward her.

KALLENBACH (CONT'D)

(quietly)

I'm asking you nicely to step back. I'm not going to say it again.

Janet reluctantly turns and walks toward Vera. Harold watches her.

Kallenbach turns to Gosteli.

KALLENBACH (CONT'D)

Secure him and check the perimeter.

GOSTELI

Yes, sir.

Gosteli pulls Harold over to a table and handcuffs him to a leg.

HAROLD

Is this really necessary?

GOSTELI

Sorry -- No comfortable cell here. You should have stayed where you were.

Janet sits beside Vera.

JANET

It can't be him.

VERA

No. Of course not.

Janet suddenly thinks of her phone. Pulls it out.

VERA (CONT'D)

Is that working...?

JANET

No. Still no signal. But...

Janet brings up the photo she showed Vera earlier of HAROLD thrusting the happy TWO-YEAR-OLD GIRL up in the air, his arms UPRAISED, confidently anticipating a sure catch.

VERA

It does look like him.

Janet looks at Vera, then gets up and determinedly walks toward Kallenbach.

JANET

(quietly)

Look at this...

Kallenbach looks from the photo over to Harold.

KALLENBACH

That is... interesting.

Kallenbach hesitates.

JANET

Let me talk to him. He's not going anywhere.

Kallenbach slowly walks over to Harold, allowing Janet to follow.

KALLENBACH

I'm going to allow this young woman to talk to you.  
Don't try to take advantage of the situation.

Harold doesn't say anything. Janet slowly approaches him. He looks at her with growing interest.

JANET

What's your name...?

HAROLD

Harold Haines.

Janet shakes her head -- Is this possible?

JANET

Where are you from?

HAROLD

Los Angeles.

JANET

How long have you been here?

HAROLD

A day... Who are you?

Janet shakes her head. Can't tell him that yet.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Okay... Where are you from?

JANET

Portland. Our mother moved there, a year after our  
father disappeared at Mount St. Helens.

They look at each other a moment. Harold is becoming increasingly suspicious.

JANET (CONT'D)

But the real question is...

She hands him her phone, with the photo displayed.

JANET (CONT'D)

Do you recognize this photo?

Harold looks at it intently. Tries to hide his surprise. Janet leans toward him.

JANET (CONT'D)

So... Have you seen this before?

HAROLD

Where did you get this?

JANET

I've had it all my life. It's me... with my father.

Harold starts to break down... His eyes become moist...

HAROLD

What... What's your name?

JANET

What do you think my name is? Can you tell me?

HAROLD

Janet...?

JANET

(slowly)

Yeah. My name's Janet.

Her eyes fill with tears.

JANET (CONT'D)

I've been looking for you...

She can resist no longer... goes in for a hug..

Harold is surprised, but responds, softly hugging her back with his one uncuffed arm, though he's still not sure who she really is.

JANET (CONT'D)

You look just the same... I can't believe it... I thought I'd never see you alive again.

HAROLD

How long has it been?

She pulls back to look at him.

JANET

Sixteen years...

HAROLD

Sixteen years...? How...? Have I been in a coma?

JANET

I don't know...

Harold slowly reaches up to touch her cheek...

HAROLD

You're really Janet...?

JANET

Yeah...

HAROLD

Janet Haines...?

JANET

Yeah...!

Janet gives a little laugh and cry at the same time.

JANET (CONT'D)

I haven't seen my father in sixteen years.

HAROLD

Sixteen years... But where's your sister...?

Janet gestures toward Vera, watching them from her cot twenty feet away.

JANET

Vera's right there...

HAROLD

That's Vera?

JANET

Yes.

Vera gets up, starts slowly walking toward them.

She looks at Harold, not yet willing to go with the moment.

Harold looks at both of them.

HAROLD

When I last saw my two young daughters... they were a lot younger. That was just a few days ago.

VERA

How young were they?

HAROLD

Eight and six.

JANET

That's the age we were... when you disappeared.

VERA

This is nuts.

Harold shakes his head.

HAROLD

When you showed me the picture, I first thought you were a long lost cousin or something. But then how would you have that picture?

Janet stands up. Calls out to Kallenbach.

JANET

Look -- We need to know. Where are we... and when are we...?

Kallenbach waits a moment to respond.

KALLENBACH

It's likely you're back where you were before you entered the cave. Just in a different time.

JANET

A different time...?

VERA

Are you fucking kidding me!?

KALLENBACH

No. Not at all.

JANET

What year is it...?

KALLENBACH

2073.

VERA

2073?

KALLENBACH

Yes.

He moves on, leaving them standing there.

Janet and Vera look at each other, stunned.

JANET

It's 2073...

Vera shakes her head.

JANET (CONT'D)

That's... more than fifty fucking years in the future...!

VERA

Jesus. That can't be -- that's nuts!

Vera reaches for Janet's arm.

VERA (CONT'D)

You don't believe this, do you...?

JANET

I don't know... They had some strange looking rifles... And look at this medical equipment... You ever seen anything like it?

VERA

No...

Janet looks at Harold.

JANET

So you must have come through time... as well?

VERA

How did you get here...?

HAROLD

I don't know how it happened... My group was attacked by the creature... I fell into a hole. When I was pulled out, I was in a different... situation....

Seeing they have questions, Kallenbach returns.

KALLENBACH

That hole became a time portal, but you can't go back that way. The portal in that hole is very unstable.

JANET

If this is true, there must be another one in the cave we came through.

HAROLD

But it connects to sixteen years later.

Janet and Vera look at him.

JANET

That would explain why you don't look any older.  
(to Vera)  
This is Dad. If you can believe it.

HAROLD

Hi, Vera. And hi, Janet.

JANET

Hi...

HAROLD

(to both of them)  
Can I..?

He raises an arm, the international invitation for a hug.

Janet doesn't hesitate - she goes in for the hug again. They have a moment. Still somewhat awkward due to his right wrist being handcuffed to the table leg.

Harold looks up at Vera. She shrugs, goes in for a brief, even more awkward hug.

Vera then pulls back, looks at the photo on Janet's phone again.

VERA

The thing is, this serves as near proof for you that we are who we say we are. If you recognize this photo.

HAROLD

Yes, I certainly do. I remember it well. The photo and the moment.

VERA

But it doesn't prove who you are. For us.

JANET

Vera. His reaction seemed pretty convincing to me.

VERA

I'm just saying... we still don't know what's going on around here.

JANET

No. Not yet.

(to Harold)

Can you help with that?

HAROLD

I don't know anything about a time portal in a cave. And why would we arrive here sixteen years apart...? I've missed so much... of your lives...

JANET

Yeah...

HAROLD

Where's your mother?

Janet and Vera both look down.

JANET

Mom is gone... Leukemia.

Harold takes this rather hard.

HAROLD

When...?

JANET

Three months ago...

HAROLD

Three months? So -- I just missed her...

Janet fights back tears. They hug again.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

I just missed her...

They slowly release each other. Harold looks at Janet.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

But what's this about Portland?

JANET

Mom moved us there, a year after you disappeared at Mount St. Helens.

Harold looks down.

JANET (CONT'D)

Mom made many hikes into the area. Well after the search teams gave up looking for you. We went on a few later, with her, as teenagers. Only the leukemia... stopped her from going back again.

Janet fights off giving in to emotion...

JANET (CONT'D)

But we both went back to L.A. for college. UCLA. Archaeology...

Janet gestures to Vera.

JANET (CONT'D)

And Journalism.

HAROLD

Journalism?

VERA

Yeah. Journalism. We can't all be archaeologists.

Harold forces a smile.

HAROLD

Uh, yeah we can...

VERA

No, not for me. Too much time in the dirt. And I prefer the immediacy of journalism.

JANET

Vera lacks the patience for sifting through mounds of earth hoping to find that one tiny fossil.

VERA

Exactly.

EXT. ADC GROUP BASE CAMP ALPHA - DAY

ROXBURGH'S POV THROUGH BINOCULARS

The view focuses in on two large men, EVANS and COBB, who are uniformed the same as the other paramilitary personnel. They approach the futuristic Humvee-type VEHICLE known as a CT-ATV parked beside Camp Alpha.

ROXBURGH (O.S.)

They're in position. Fire.

We hear a launcher FIRE - FAWHOOM - then we see the TRAIL of a ROCKET fly from just left of our position toward the base camp -

Then the middle of the camp EXPLODES in a FIREBALL -

Evans and Cobb quickly get in the CT-ATV. The vehicle pulls away as men on fire run out of Camp Alpha and roll on the ground.

ROXBURGH

lowers the binoculars. Kercher lowers his rocket launcher. They both admire the scene of destruction 500 feet away.

MOMENTS LATER

Roxburgh and Kercher stand as the CT-ATV pulls up near them. Evans and Cobb jump out.

COBB

What a blast...!

They quickly help Roxburgh and Kercher load their equipment into the vehicle.

EVANS

I got a question for you, boss.

ROXBURGH

What's that?

EVANS

If your source of profit is now derived from the past, do you keep your funds in a past timeline, like an offshore account?

ROXBURGH

If you plan to stay there.

EVANS

So unless you had a real reliable portal...

ROXBURGH

You wouldn't want to have that separation. We haven't come close to setting up a reliably stable wormhole.

KERCHE

Once we deliver the QM to our buyer, I may just stay in that timeline. Nothing here that I need.

EVANS

I hear you...

They get in the CT-ATV and pull away.

INT. BASE CAMP BETA - LARGE TENT SET-UP - DAY

Harold, Janet and Vera, still conversing, look up as Kallenbach and Gosteli take to the center area to make an announcement.

KALLENBACH

Roxburgh and Kercher just attacked Camp Alpha. They set off explosives. Three men are dead. They stole a CT-ATV, more arms, and they've been joined by two other men. They left a message --

He nods at Gosteli, who reads from a small hand device:

GOSTELI

"Leave the QM to us. We will kill everyone who gets in our way."

KALLENBACH

(to Harold)

You know anything more about their plans?

HAROLD

Not really. I know they want the creature, the QM.

JANET

Is there somewhere safer we can go? We just got reunited. I don't want to lose anyone now.

KALLENBACH

Yes. -- We're going to the lab.

(to Gosteli)

Uncuff him.

Gosteli bends down to unlock Harold's handcuff. Harold looks at him, surprised and grateful.

VERA

(to Kallenbach)

You have a lab out here?

KALLENBACH

Yes.

JANET

If this lab is safer, let's go there. It's not a tent, right? And maybe we can learn more there.

KALLENBACH

Let's go.

OUTSIDE

Kallenbach leads the Haines and Gina behind the base tent to two **CT-ATVs - Combat Tactical All-Terrain Vehicles**. They look like futuristic Humvees, but they're actually electric drive vehicles.

Kallenbach opens the door of the first one.

KALLENBACH

Get in.

Janet, Vera and Harold climb inside and sit in the back. Gina, limping, climbs in after them. Roven takes a side seat near them.

Gosteli takes the driver's seat with Kallenbach across from him.

Nemec and the four-man P-Squad get in the second CT-ATV. They pull out.

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - DIRT ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

The two CT-ATVs make their way along a rough tree-lined mountainous road.

INT. FIRST CT-ATV

Kallenbach glances back at Harold, Janet and Vera. They look determined to ride this out as the vehicle jostles them in their seats.

Janet turns to Harold.

JANET

You know, I long wanted to do something with my father. A dig, some research, or even something simple like homework for a school project in fourth grade. Something most take for granted.

HAROLD

Yes. And I very much would have liked to have done all that with you. With you both.

JANET

Yeah.

Vera gives a small nod. Doesn't say anything.

HAROLD

Tell me... Was your mother happy?

Janet and Vera look at him.

JANET

She never remarried. She never stopped looking for you.

Harold shakes his head.

JANET (CONT'D)

But there were moments... when we were happy.

Vera stays silent.

HAROLD

I imagine you had to grow up faster because of disappearing Dad.

JANET

Yeah... Wasn't easy for our mother either.

HAROLD

She was a single Mom for all those years... I'm so sorry. To her. And to you.

They exchange sombre looks.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

I'm afraid I was a selfish father and husband. Too many trips out in the field. I wasn't home enough.

They continue on silently. Then:

VERA

No one in this family can beat me for selfishness.

OUTSIDE

PULL BACK to REVEAL Roxburgh and Kercher watching from a hillside above the two vehicles. Evans and Cobb are with them as well.

Roxburgh gestures at them. Cobb opens a metal box. Pulls out a rocket launcher. Hands it to Kercher.

Kercher places the launcher on his shoulder. Aims at the second CT-ATV as it passes by below. He FIRES -

The back of the second vehicle EXPLODES -

It swerves off the road in flames and crashes in a small gully, spilling out the burned, writhing bodies of the P-Squad.

One man manages to rise to his knees, on fire... then collapses.

FIRST CT-ATV

Janet, Vera and Harold look back in shock at the second vehicle -

Gosteli presses down on the accelerator - their CT-ATV jumps forward, almost bouncing along the rough road -

OUTSIDE

Kercher is loading a second rocket into the launcher -

The CT-ATV lurches forward -

Kercher brings up the launcher - aims -

The CT-ATV is about to go behind a line of trees -

Kercher FIRES -

FIRST CT-ATV

Janet gasps as the trees just beside and behind them EXPLODE -

OUTSIDE

Kercher pumps his arm with frustration.

KERCHER

Fuck!

He lowers the launcher.

ROXBURGH

Let's go.

FIRST CT-ATV

Janet, Vera and Harold look at each other in disbelief.

ROVEN

We can go back. Take them on.

Kallenbach shakes his head.

KALLENBACH

No. We need to get to the lab.

EXT. ADC GROUP CANYON LAB - DUSK

The CT-ATV approaches off the dirt road and pulls up in front of the lab. It appears to be a one-level small office building, strangely isolated in the canyon.

Kallenbach, Gosteli and Roven get out, followed by Janet and Vera. Harold helps Gina. Gosteli and Roven bring automatic rifles.

JANET

Not exactly a fortress.

KALLENBACH

It's a lab in the field.

VERA

Out of the public eye.

A GUARD opens the front door for them. They enter the

LAB LOBBY

Kallenbach turns to the guard.

KALLENBACH

Keep alert.

GUARD

Yes, sir.

Kallenbach leads the group toward the hallway.

KALLENBACH

There's someone who wants to meet you.

JANET

Good. Maybe we can get some answers.

CUT TO:

LAB 120

They come into the room. LEAH PORTIER, 40s, a scientist in a lab coat, looks up from her table. She rises and approaches them.

KALLENBACH

This is Dr. Leah Portier, who runs this field lab --

Portier interjects -

PORTIER

We don't have civilians here often. But when Kallenbach told me of your method of arrival...

She moves to shake Harold's hand.

HAROLD

Harold Haines. No one told me you were here.

PORTIER

Yes. Need to know and all that.

JANET

We need to know about a portal in that cave...

PORTIER

These are your daughters?

HAROLD

Yes. Janet and Vera. A bit older than when I last saw them.

PORTIER

Must be a hell of a thing for all of you.

JANET

More than fifty years in the future, but we're sixteen years apart. We need to --

Vera interrupts -

VERA

(to Portier)

Let me ask you something. Can you prove what year it is? Here, now?

PORTIER

Can I prove it? Interesting question. What do you say, Kallenbach?

KALLENBACH

It's 2073. Everyone here knows it.

PORTIER

Just like last year we all knew it was 2072. You see, we don't have the advantage of your experience.

VERA

You know you're the first woman I've seen out here not from my own timeline?

PORTIER

I can believe that. You've only been out at the base camp, right? The group likes to keep its elite private forces all male. The fight goes on, sister!

A loud HISS-like sound is heard from across the room.

GINA

Oh my God... What was that?

It HISSES again.

Janet and Vera both start moving toward the sound.

Portier darts ahead of them - She reaches the far side of the room.

PORTIER

Alright, there is indeed something here remarkable. I just ask that you keep calm. Don't want to startle it.

JANET

Okay...

Portier opens a large heavy door.

Behind it is a reinforced heavy glass CELL - holding a BABY CREATURE.

About two feet tall if it could stand, it looks very much like the QM seen earlier. It's got the weird Cro-Magnon-like shaped head, with the back of the skull protruding. A gorilla/grizzly hybrid, but without fur. Greyish skin.

VERA

Oh my god. Look at that.

JANET

It's a baby...! Where...?

PORTIER

The QM and QF. Yes. They're its parents.

VERA

There's two of them?!

JANET

You mean three of them.

PORTIER

They were a result of our seeing how far back we could push the wormhole.

JANET

You mean they're from the past?

PORTIER

The QM and his mate seem to have been picked up from 300,000 years ago, but then they were sent to a future we haven't been able to track. They came back as hybrids, like no creature seen before.

GINA

So that creature that attacked us -- has a mate?

PORTIER

Yes. We call her QF.

VERA

And you sent them both to the future?

PORTIER

We didn't understand how the wormhole works. We still don't have control of it. And we believe there may be more than one in the cave.

GINA

So you see the creatures as an endangered species.

JANET

They're a family! I feel like they should be given a chance. I certainly don't want them falling under the control of ruthless mercenaries.

GINA

They're dangerous. I say let whatever happens to them happen.

JANET

No. You can't mean that. If we have a chance to affect things here, let's make it count. Nothing good can come from those two mercenaries getting what they want.

Vera glances at Harold.

VERA

Janet has long been the animal rescue-type.

GINA

I'm as much for saving an endangered species as anyone, but when you have a killer tiger or bear, you take it out.

JANET

They're beyond endangered. They're unique.

GINA

This is hard for me to get my head around. How did this start?

PORTIER

Our company had been doing research into wormholes, and to make a long story short, there were some unintended consequences.

KALLENBACH

A wormhole opened up in that cave you came out of.

HAROLD

But I wasn't ever in that cave...

PORTIER

A second, smaller wormhole has appeared in the area. It's unstable, and changes positions.

HAROLD

Changes positions?

PORTIER

Yes. You might say you were lucky. It might have deposited you into the bottom of a lake.

VERA

Can we go back to our timeline? Using the main portal?

PORTIER

You'll have to find the precise spot of the portal. We did calculations here using schematics of the cave. We'll give you a GPS device to bring with you. But you'll have to use it in the next three hours. The wormhole will shift its position at any point after that.

GINA

So it's unstable as well?

PORTIER

Not nearly as much as the smaller one. But we have never found a truly stable wormhole.

HAROLD

Why are you doing this for us?

PORTIER

I believe it's in everyone's interest to have everything in its proper timeline. Or in your case, as close as possible.

VERA

So Dad cannot go back to his own timeline...?

PORTIER

He could wait for another wormhole, though there may never be one that goes back to when he came from.

HAROLD

Even if I could go back to my own timeline -- That's not a risk I would want to take.

JANET

That would create a paradox.

HAROLD

I missed sixteen years of my daughters lives. Of being there while they grew up. But there's no way I can make that up.

JANET

Dad...

HAROLD

But look at you. Both of you. You're in good shape. You grew up without me. It must have been a blow to lose your father at such a young age. But you did okay.

Janet looks down.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

The most important thing is you two. Your mother would agree. She would not want me to do anything that would put at risk your becoming who you are now.

Vera turns to Portier.

VERA

Could there be consequences to his returning to our timeline? Could it cause a paradox -- him coming back sixteen years later?

JANET

But there would be no paradox. Just missing years.

PORTIER

There would be no direct paradox.

HAROLD

If I go back there, what could happen?

PORTIER

We cannot be sure. But just coming here was disruptive to the timeline continuity. The assumption and hope is that disruption will not be significant.

Just then a VOICE over a LOUDSPEAKER is heard from outside. It's Roxburgh.

ROXBURGH (O.S.)

We know you're in there. You have twenty seconds to give us what we want.

Everyone turns to the left - even though there's no windows in the room. Roven and Gosteli ready their guns and move toward the wall.

VERA

Is it -- ?

HAROLD

It's Roxburgh and Kercher.

GINA

What are they --

Suddenly the side of the room EXPLODES - a HOLE is blown in the wall, exposing the outside. Everyone inside is knocked off their feet.

ROXBURGH (O.S.)

(loudspeaker)

Times up. You were warned.

Kallenbach slowly gets up, looks at his bloodied right arm. He approaches the hole, yells out:

KALLENBACH

Stay back! We're armed!

ROXBURGH (O.S.)

We know what you have in there.

PORTIER

Traitors.

ROXBURGH (O.S.)

We no longer work for you. We answer to the highest bidder.

Roven and Gosteli take up positions on either side of the hole. Roven FIRES a BURST outside as a warning.

Portier approaches Harold. Hands him a small handheld GPS device.

PORTIER

The coordinates are set in this device. If you can get to the cave, bring your daughters to the spot indicated. It's your best chance.

HAROLD

Thank you.

PORTIER

This is only good for the next three hours. After that the spot will shift inside the cave.

HAROLD

Got it.

PORTIER

If this doesn't work, you'll have to find me in the city. I'm leaving ASAP.

HAROLD

Okay.

A couple SHOTS come in from outside.

ROXBURGH (O.S.)

Enough of this! Come on out!

Gosteli responds with a BURST of GUNFIRE.

Suddenly there's a ROAR - CLAWS grab Gosteli's arm and PULL him outside -

The others watch in horror as a CREATURE lifts Gosteli up and TEARS him in half -

VERA

My god -- !

PORTIER

It's QF -- the mate -- !

JANET

You mean -- the mother!

Roven swings his gun around and FIRES -

The QF creature reaches in - swats him like a bug -

Roven's torn body is thrust against the wall -

The QF looks inside at the others - ROARS - then clambers in through the hole -

The others quickly move back out of her way -

The QF starts across the room - hunched over, nine feet tall -

She looks at them - ROARS -

Then she makes her way to the cell - looks at the baby - ROARS again -

The baby looks up at her -

The QF starts POUNDING on the reinforced glass - it holds up well at first -

Then it starts to CRACK -

Another ROAR is heard from outside - the head of the QM creature appears outside the hole - he looks in -

The QF continues BATTERING the reinforced glass - finally it SHATTERS -

The QF reaches inside the cell - picks up her baby by the scruff of the neck -

She turns, looks at the humans keeping to the far side of the room -

She makes her way back across the room over to the hole with her baby - Goes out, joining the QM -

They both move off, out of sight.

Then another GUNFIRE BURST is heard from outside - Apparently they're firing at the creatures. The SHOTS recede into the distance.

Janet, Vera and Harold look at the hole in astonishment. Gina gets up from the floor.

Kallenbach starts to pick up the rifles of his two men, despite his injured arm. Harold and Vera take the guns from him.

Vera holds up the rifle - looks at Kallenbach -

VERA

No one's gonna be kicking my ass now! This troublesome interloper is armed!

KALLENBACH

Indeed.

PORTIER

Go get 'em, girl.

JANET

We've got to get to the cave.

VERA

Where do you think they're taking the baby?

KALLENBACH

If they take it to the cave we'll have to drive them away from the wormhole.

PORTIER

Good luck.

Harold turns to Janet and Vera. They look at each other.

VERA

Let's go.

Gina limps over to them.

GINA

Let's go.

They head for the hallway.

OUTSIDE

Janet, Vera, Gina and Harold come out the front door with Kallenbach. They keep their guns pointed, at the ready - no man or creature is in sight.

They head to the CT-ATV.

KALLENBACH

I need someone to drive. My arm...

JANET

I'll do it.

INT/EXT. CT-ATV

They all get in, with Janet taking the driver's seat. She activates the engine and pulls out onto the dirt road.

Vera turns to Kallenbach -

VERA

Tell me, why are you here? Is this considered a plum assignment?

Kallenbach gives a gritty smile.

KALLENBACH

Even the most dedicated soldier can have a mission go south on him. So yes, I left the Marines under a cloud. I was lucky to get this assignment in this corporate outpost.

Vera gives him a nod of grudging respect.

EXT. MOUTH OF THE CAVE - NIGHT

TWO GUARDS are keeping watch.

IN THE TREES

Seventy feet away, Roxburgh and Kercher's men Evans and Cobb observe the scene. They nod at each other. Evans pulls out a pulse grenade. Throws it in the direction of the guards -

MOUTH OF THE TUNNEL

A strong PULSE of light flashes, followed by a SONIC BOOM.

The two guards are torn apart and scattered -

A loud ROAR is heard - it's the QF inside.

Then the QF comes out in a rush -

She stops, looks around, as if sensing the men nearby -

## IN THE TREES

Evans and Cobb look at each other apprehensively. Start to back away.

The creature looks in their direction. Then abruptly starts bounding toward them -

Evans and Cobb FIRE a couple shots -

The QF keeps coming toward them -

They turn and start running -

With just a few more strides the QF catches up to them -

Attacks in full fury -

Evans gets off one last SHOT - then is struck -

flung a dozen feet away, chest torn open -

Cobb looks up - raises his arm - then he is struck -

Flung the opposite direction -

He twitches on the ground - painfully crawls a few inches...

The creature ROARS for a moment in isolation -

Then turns toward Cobb - abruptly jumps on him -

We hear TEARING sounds - SCREAMING - then no more sound or movement from Cobb.

The QF turns around, sensing the approaching QM -

The QM strides up to her - they do a creature-embrace...

Then they break it off and start moving quickly through the woods.

## MOUNTAIN ROAD

Janet's CT-ATV is moving as fast as it can on the narrow, rough roadway...

The road then opens up to a small group of MOUNTAIN CABINS.

Janet is driving by them when suddenly the QM appears in front of her, blocking her way -

## INT/EXT. CT-ATV

Janet hits the brakes -

Runs into the creature -

The QM ROARS - lashes out, hitting the CT-ATV - knocking it on its side -

The QF then appears behind it -

Both creatures hit the vehicle again, turning it over - upside down -

Janet, Vera, Gina and Harold are thrown about inside -

Kallenbach manages to FIRE off a shot -

The vehicle is stuck again, spinning it around half a revolution -

Then the QM starts peeling away its side -

Kallenbach, closest to the sudden new opening, is exposed - he raises his rifle -

The QM swiftly reaches in - swats the gun away - grabs him by the HEAD -

Kallenbach SCREAMS -

The QM yanks on him - most of Kallenbach is caught in vehicle wreckage - there's a sickening tearing and CRACKING - the QM pulls back, coming away with Kallenbach's head -

The QM tosses the head aside with a ROAR -

CABINS

A MAN and WOMAN come out of a nearby cabin to see what all the noise is about - they look in disbelief -

MAN

My god -- !

The QF turns toward them - ROARS -

Another COUPLE come out of the closest cabin -

The QM and QF charge toward them -

They quickly go back inside and close their front door -

The creatures hit the cabin - start tearing it apart -

The terrified couple run out the cabin's back door -

IN THE CABIN

The creatures look around the cabin, and discover food... They stop their rampage. They eat a few mouthfuls, then turn to each other, licking each other's faces...

INT/EXT. CT-ATV

Janet, Vera and Harold climb out of the vehicle -

Janet picks up a gun -

JANET

Let's go.

Vera and Harold retrieve two more guns from the CT-ATV and help Gina to her feet. The four of them move into the woods.

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS CANYON - NIGHT

Janet, Vera and Harold alternately help Gina along the canyon terrain toward the cave.

They reach the

MOUTH OF THE CAVE

They look at the bodies of the two guards.

GINA

I don't know about this.

JANET

I vote we go in. It's not like we're unarmed.

VERA

I agree. I say we need to do whatever's necessary to get out of here.

JANET

Gina?

VERA

You want to stay here?

GINA

No... Mr. Haines...?

HAROLD

Call me Harold.

GINA

Harold... What do you say?

HAROLD

I want to go. But I'm leaving it up to you three.  
Wherever you go, I'm going.

GINA

How much time have we got?

Janet checks the device.

JANET

Thirty-four minutes.

GINA

Let's go. Let's do it.

HAROLD

Alright.

They proceed silently into the

CAVE

Their flashlight beams once again pierce the dark space in front of them.

In a SERIES OF SHOTS, the group progresses farther into the cave. The passageway starts descending deeper.

The cave is as silent as the first time they entered it. Janet looks at the device Portier gave them.

JANET

It's another two hundred feet. And we've got six minutes.

VERA

We'll make it.

GINA

I'm limping here...

VERA

It's not that far. We'll make it.

They continue down...

They approach the branch off - the cave splits into two corridors thirty feet ahead.

JANET

This is it. This is where the creature first attacked us.

VERA

So where is the portal?

Janet looks at the device.

JANET

It's about fifty feet farther, to the left.

They continue down the left corridor.

Suddenly a helmet light comes on just ahead of them. The figure of a man is visible. It's Roxburgh.

ROXBURGH

I'll take that device.

Janet, Vera and Harold start to make a move for their guns -

KERCHER (O.S.)

Uh-uh. No. Drop those guns.

They look behind - Kercher steps out from around the split to the right corridor.

KERCHER (CONT'D)

Drop it. Any guns you have.

ROXBURGH

Now please.

Janet, Vera and Harold lower their guns to the cave floor.

ROXBURGH (CONT'D)

I'll take that device, if you don't mind.

JANET

What do you want with it?

ROXBURGH

We're going back to your time. There what we have to offer should be invaluable.

HAROLD

Look. We just want to go home.

ROXBURGH

I don't know if that would be to our advantage.  
Let's have it.

Janet hands over the device.

Roxburgh looks at its display.

ROXBURGH (CONT'D)

Hey Kercher -- get down here. We've only got three minutes until the portal closes.

(to Janet)

Didn't leave much leeway for yourself, did you?

JANET

We didn't want to be in here any more than necessary.

Then they hear a familiar HISSING -

JANET (CONT'D)

The baby... You've got the baby?

ROXBURGH

We do.

GINA

Aren't you afraid of --

Suddenly there's a ROAR from behind them -

Roxburgh brings up a nozzle - shoots off a FLAME THROWER - revealing the QF! But it pulls back, apparently afraid of fire -

Roxburgh shifts the flame thrower to the right and left to keep the creature back -

Then the QM appears, coming down from the main corridor that leads to the outside -

Kercher turns around to face it - he also starts to shoot off a FLAME THROWER -

But before he can fully bring it up the QM jumps forward, whips out an arm and snatches the flame thrower away from him - he flings it away without a thought -

Kercher pulls out a grenade -

The QM jumps onto Kercher - he drops the grenade -

It starts to roll away - then EXPLODES -

The QM and Kercher take the brunt of the blast. Kercher is fried.

The QM appears to be scorched, but is still moving a bit. He ROARS again, then collapses to the floor of the cave.

Roxburgh looks over with concern -

The QM gets halfway up - starts moving toward Roxburgh -

Harold sees an opportunity to slip behind Roxburgh - he leans toward Gina -

HAROLD

Go -- I'll help you... It's fifty feet. Go.

GINA

Alright.

Gina starts limping down the passageway, with Harold supporting her. Janet and Vera pick up their guns and quickly follow.

Roxburgh sees them escaping behind his back -

ROXBURGH

Fuck -- !

But he has his hands full keeping the QF at bay - and the approaching QM - he shoots another blast of flame -

JANET

then sees the BABY -- it's in a three-foot high reinforced cage at the side of the corridor.

JANET

There's the baby. -- I'm going to free it.

VERA

Are you kidding? We're almost at the portal!

JANET

You keep going. I'll catch up.

VERA

Janet -- No!

JANET

It's a baby! If we're gone how will it survive  
locked in a cage?

Janet approaches the cage. She sees its door has a lock. Janet gestures to the others to keep going.

Janet aims her gun at the lock - FIRES - the lock is damaged, but holds -

She FIRES again - it gives way, but the door won't open - Janet starts kicking the door -

ROXBURGH

turns - The QM is now coming up on Roxburgh's side - he shifts the flame thrower in its direction -

Instantly the QF jumps on him - Roxburgh drops the flame thrower - then the QM jumps on him as well -

Roxburgh SCREAMS as they rip at him -

Then the QF abruptly turns and charges down the corridor at

JANET

She jumps back - trips and falls backwards - she freezes -

The QF goes straight to the cage - she swats at it - its door pops open -

The QF pulls her baby out of the cage, again by the scruff of the neck.

Janet doesn't move - she stays on her back as the mother and baby reunite...

HAROLD,

Vera and Gina watch in disbelief from fifty feet away...

Vera whispers to Harold -

VERA

She's got twenty seconds...

HAROLD

I'm not going...

Harold steps away from the portal area.

VERA

Shit. Me either.

Vera steps away as well.

HAROLD

No. You go. There's no reason for you to stay.

VERA

I'm not leaving you here.

Vera turns to Gina.

VERA (CONT'D)

Gina -- You go! We'll look for another way to get back!

GINA

How -- ?

VERA

Don't worry about it! We'll see! -- Keep a lookout for us!

GINA

I'll try...

Gina suddenly VANISHES from sight -

FLASH --

GINA

is standing in the SAME CORRIDOR - but no one else is there. And it's totally quiet.

She shines her light beam around the dark cave...

GINA

(to herself)

Not going to discover what year it is from in here.

She starts slowly limping toward the main passageway.

HAROLD

and Vera turn from the now empty area where Gina was...

JANET

stays still on her back as the QF nudges her baby, as if to make sure it's alright. Then she picks it up by the scruff of the neck and carries it over to the QM.

Janet continues silently watching as the QF sadly sniffs at him. He responds like a wounded bear. A low but still-not-unpowerful moan.

The QM then also nudges the baby.

Then the QF again picks up the baby, and the three of them slowly disappear from sight around the split into the far corridor.

HAROLD

and Vera quietly make their way over to Janet.

VERA

(quietly)

Holy shit...!

HAROLD

Are you alright?

JANET

Yeah.

VERA

You bitch! Now we're stuck here!

HAROLD

Hey -- !

JANET

Think nothing of it. That's how we talk.

VERA

Shit.

JANET

We missed our window?

VERA

You missed our window. We were ready to go.  
But for you.

JANET

Where's Gina?

VERA

She's gone! You know why? Because she's got her  
shit straight! Unlike you!

HAROLD

Alright... Is it always like this?

JANET

She'll cool down.

VERA

Yeah. We'll see.

Harold sighs.

HAROLD

I hope Gina made it.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUTH OF THE CAVE - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

Tanya and Dermot are still there, along with a couple Forest Rangers.

They seem to hear something...

We see them move into the cave...

Then they come out again with Gina. They are very relieved to see each other - hugs all around - but then a few questioning gestures...

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUTH OF THE CAVE - NIGHT (2073)

Janet, Vera and Harold come out of the cave. Look around at the desolate landscape and damaged base camp in the distance.

VERA

Not a big fan of the people here, but I'm sorry Kallenbach is gone. I was looking forward to the opportunity to punch someone in the face. Show him some girl power.

HAROLD

You want to join his unit...?

VERA

Of course not.

HAROLD

I get it.

JANET

You may yet get a chance. We don't know what's in the world out there. But odds are good you'll find someone who needs to be shown how to demonstrate respect.

VERA

I'm sure.

HAROLD

We need to find Portier, or someone who can help us access another portal.

JANET

There is one thing you should see before we get to the city.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - OUTSIDE PORTLAND - DAY

The cemetery is set in gently rolling hills. A futuristic, industrial city skyline is prominent in the distance. Janet, Vera and Harold move toward a section under a large tree.

VERA

Good to see that the cemetery is still at least somewhat well-maintained...

Janet looks at her.

VERA (CONT'D)

...More than fifty years in the future.

HAROLD

It's not the future anymore.

VERA

No. It's now the present.

Janet turns from them. She resumes moving forward - then stops.

JANET

Dad -- Over here.

Harold and Vera join her. They walk over to a modest grave. Stand in front of it quietly. The inscription is stark and simple:

JUDITH HAINES

BELOVED WIFE AND MOTHER

FADE OUT.